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**Washington, DC** - Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) today called on President Bush to address a Joint Session of Congress on the U.S. economic crisis. She delivered the following statement on the House Floor:

“With our nation facing the most serious financial crisis since the Great Depression, where is President Bush?

“This Republican President is asking every hardworking American taxpayer to pay \$5,200 to rescue reckless banks and incompetent financiers. If saving our economy demands such an enormous sacrifice from American taxpayers, then I urge the President come before a joint session of Congress to ask the American people for their support.

“President Bush has an obligation to talk to the American people and their elected leaders. Only this President can explain why his \$700 billion taxpayer funded rescue package that call for unprecedented government powers is needed.

“President Bush is in New York today speaking before the United Nation. Why isn't President Bush speaking to the American people and Congress?

“This time of crisis is no time for the President of the United States to be abdicating his duty. President Bush needs to take responsibility and demonstrate leadership.”

*Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-4) serves on the Appropriations Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.*

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